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AMERICA'S FIRST PLANETARIUM

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For Immediate Release:

FLY ME TO THE MOON ON SEPTEMBER 17!
WOMEN'S BOARD PRESENTS 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELESTIAL BALL
Gala Attendees First in Chicago to See NASA's Lost Spacecraft on Display

CHICAGO - With a full Moon in the September sky, the Women's Board of the Adler Planetarium salutes America's First Planetarium with the *75th Anniversary Celestial Ball: Fly Me to the Moon* on Saturday, September 17, 2005

The Celestial Ball benefits *Astronomy Connections*, a teacher-training program that brings the Adler into science classrooms across the state and aims to inspire the next generation of explorers.

Apollo 13 Astronaut **Captain James A. Lovell, Jr.**, honorary chairman of the Adler's 75th Anniversary, will join the Women's Board for the black-tie gala celebration.

Lovell will attend a private reception being held in the Adler's recently restored Rainbow Lobby for event sponsors and premium ticket purchasers. Private reception guests will be the first in Chicago to see Liberty Bell 7, the 1961 Mercury space capsule recovered from the Atlantic Ocean floor in 1999, on display. A special exhibition, *LOST SPACECRAFT*, opens at the Adler October 2 to the general public. The exhibit runs through January 8, 2006.

Mary Ann Childers and **Jay Levine** of CBS-2 Chicago are honorary co-chairs of the 75th Anniversary Celestial Ball.

Celestial Ball guests will enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while perusing a silent auction of exciting travel packages and luxury items, and bid for unique prizes in a live auction to be conducted by the renowned auctioneer **Sean Susanin**. Among the items to go on the block in the historic Sky Theater are a private fireworks viewing and cocktail party for 25 at the Adler on July 3, 2006, a four-night stay in Paris, and dinner with **John Mahoney** of Chicago's Steppenwolf Theater and television's *Frazier*.

For the first time ever, gala attendees will have an all-access pass to the Adler. Guests will be invited to explore the museum's exhibits and navigate the night sky with Adler astronomers on the North Terrace. Adler educators will lead demonstrations and invite guests to participate in museum activities.

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Following the auctions, guests will enjoy a sumptuous dinner catered and underwritten by Food for Thought.

Dancing to the Eden Orchestra will cap the 75th Anniversary gala, the stage for which will be set through dramatic décor by Heffernan Morgan.

Event sponsors include: Universe Sponsor: Food for Thought; Galaxy Sponsors: The Boeing Company, ComEd, an Exelon Company; Quasar Sponsors: Motorola and Peoples Energy; Supernova Sponsors: LaSalle Bank, Orli & Bill Staley, United Airlines Nova Sponsors: Jill W. Adler, Andrew Corporation, Ariel Capital Management, LLC, Cynthia L. Ballew & Michael Smith, Bank One, Dr. George T. Caleel & Rebecca Childers Caleel, Don & Ellen Clark, Bryan & Christina Cressey, The Eder Family, Ernst & Young, LLP, Lovell's of Lake Forest, William J. & Karen W. Lutz, Midwest Generation, Dr. Roger Perry & Ms. Bonnie Vaughn Perry, Sidley Austin Brown & Wood.

The gala is chaired by Katherine C. Hunt; co-chairs are Sherry Schmitter Block and Susan Downing.

Joining Hunt, Schmitter Block and Downing on the Women's Board are Cynthia Ballew, President, and Marilyn Athas, Debra S. Beck, Kathleen M. Boege, Rebecca Childers Caleel, Linda Celesia, Vera Clark, Pamela Cramer, Colleen M. Creighton, Susan V. Downing, Kathleen Fox, Sarah M. Fritz, Lea Goldblatt, Catherine E. Goy, Lois Harb, Mel Cooney Higgins, Nancy Hoffman, Susan C. Hull*, Anna Igoe, Pamela Paziotopoulos Jann, Caroline Becker Joss, Mary Ann Karris, Naomi Knappenberger, Adrienne Kolb*, Kathryn Martens, Carlette McMullan*, Laura Myntti, Penelope J. Obenshain, Bonnie Vaughn Perry, Orli Staley, Kay Torshen, Judith C. York and JoEllen Bursinger Zacks.

* Sustaining Member

A limited number of tickets for the 75th Anniversary *Celestial Ball* are available at \$350-\$1,000 per person. Sponsorship packages, starting at \$3,500, are also available. For more information, contact Jessica Bancroft 312/322-0523, jbancroft@adlerplanetarium.org.

Through its support of the museum's education, research and advocacy missions, the Women's Board of the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum helps inspire the next generation of explorers. The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum – America's First Planetarium – was founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler. The museum is home to one of the world's most important antique instrument collections and is the only museum in the world with two full-size planetarium theaters. The Adler is a recognized leader in science education, with a focus on inspiring young people, particularly women and minorities, to pursue careers in science.

The Adler Planetarium is marking its 75th Anniversary by launching a year of celebration and a new vision for its future. A new mission will expand the museum's current focus on astronomy to celebrate human space exploration and America's space heroes.

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